5 June 10th 1834.
Charges by Mr D.
Bra[illegible]ford.

U S B Mint New Orleans
June 10th 1839,

To

Thomas Slidell Esqr. U S District Attorney,
Sir,

In Conformity with the intimation you made on the 3rd inst. that you would expect at your next meeting investigating the differences among the officers and the difficulties of the institution, a written statement from each of the Officers, I submit the following.

The grounds on which I recommended the removal of the Coiner and the Melter and Refiner of this Branch Mint, may be embraced in the general charge of Official misconduct.

1st In relation to the Coiner, in his assuming, at an early period after his arrival, for his department and taking Poſseſsion of the same, divers Vaults, rooms and apartments not designed for him — he being well acquainted with the original design of the same and it being before the Plans and drawings of the Building were seen by me — by which great embarraſsment and irregularity in the operations ensued

2nd In his uniform hostility manifested to the Steam Coining Preſses (patented as I am informed by Franklin Peale) which were furnished to this Branch Mint by the Director. The pretended alterations and readjustment of which occasioned great and unneceſsary delays in the operations of this Branch Mint and injury to the public service.

In the Months of February or March 1838 I mentioned to the Coiner that I was informed that Mr Peale would be sent on to inspect or organize this Branch Mint for operations. The Coiner replied that if Mr Peale came out for that purpose he (the Coiner) would have nothing more to do with this Branch Mint. Soon after the Coiner stated to me that screw preſses ought to have been furnished for this Branch Mint besides the three steam coining preſses which we have — that the latter were greatly defective — that the proceſs of Coining with the Steam Coining Preſs had not the test of experience in its favor — that the Chief Coiner in Philadelphia had no Confidence in them and had told him that in leſs than five years they would be disused and the old method of the screw preſs would be restored in all the Mint Establishments in our nation. I showed him a letter of the Director, dated 2nd June 1838, informing me that the steam coining preſses in Philadelphia worked well. He said the Director did not know whether they worked well or not; that they took care not to let him know when they were out of order or when any thing went wrong.

I have been informed and believe that the Coiner stated to some of the workmen that all the machinery that came from Philadelphia must be Condemned and remodelled by him so that he could call it his own. — that the Steam Engine and Boilers have been so managed as to tend to their speedy destruction — that the Coiner has spoken of having another Engine made after his plans by Mr Baldwin of Philadelphia, his brother-in-law. — all in dereliction of Official duty and manifesting in my opinion an inexcusable disregard of the public interest.

3rd " The Conduct of the Coiner in relation to a skeleton key has been embarrassing to the Superintendent, and in my opinion highly reprehensible.

In March or April 1838 the key of my Office, as well as those of many of the working rooms, was often missing and not to be found among the great number of keys for the Establishment. I was at this time politely furnished with a skeleton or master key by the brother of the Coiner who remarked to me at the time that the Superintendent ought to have such a key as it would enable him to visit the different rooms without detention for want of the several keys thereof.

. The Coiner also had a Skeleton key which he told me he was under the necessity of making or having made, as often the requisite key of some of his rooms was not to be found when wanted. ~~The Coiner~~ I found on trial that my key was Calculated to open all the ordinary doors of this Branch Mint, the locks of the Vaults being of a very different discription. Shortly after I found the locks to the doors of several of the rooms in the Coining department had been altered, so that the key I had would not open them as it had often done before on my taking visitors through the Mint and on other occasions. The Coiner told me he had altered his locks. Hearing that the Treasurers Office had been opened after the Clerk had locked it and taken the key with him, I requested Mr. M. P. Denney, foreman in the Coining department, to alter the lock and make a key for it, so that no skeleton key could open it. He did so and desired me not to let the Coiner know that he had altered the Treasurers lock. I have since been informed and believe that the Coiner discovered that the Treasurers lock had been altered by Mr. Denney, who who soon after dismissed on account of it by the Coiner. I enquired of the Coiner the cause of his dismissal, which he declined giving, saying that he would have to resign, if required to give his reasons for discharging him. Some time after the key of the door of the Treasurers Office having gotten out of order, was taken by one of the Porters to the Machine shop for the trifling repair of a rivet, when the Coiner prohibitted his men from repairing it and it had to be sent to a Shop in the City.

4th. The Conduct of the Coiner ~~& M & R~~ in delivering bullion to be remelted to the M & R, in the Month of Decr 1838, was contrary to law and the Express directions of the Supt.

The proceedings in transferring Bullion from the Treasr to the M & Refiner and ingots from the latter to the former; in delivering ingots by the Treasr to the Coiner & receiving Clippings from the Coiner were irregular, up to the 1st Augt last the instructions not being received till about the 11th June. On the arrival of the Coiner and M & R in November last I directed that every proceeding in the transactions of the Treasurer and Coiner and M & Refiner should be in strict Conformity to law and the instructions from the Director. But notwithstanding the Coiner told the undersigned about the last of December that he had got the Melter & Refiner to remelt some ingots or strips for him — all in violation of law, the instructions from the Director and the directions of the Superintendent

5th In April 1838. The Coiner and the M. & Refiner stated to me that the assayer was not accurate in his assays. I proposed witnessing the operations of the Assayer thinking from my knowledge of Chemistry that I could ascertain his correctness or errors. This proposition the Coiner strenuously opposed. The Coiner, continued after the Reports dated May 22nd & July 7th of the re assays at Philad.a stating that the assays of the Assayer at that Br. Mint were "quite satisfactory" to harrass the assayer by getting him to assay pieces of Silver almost incessantly and altogether unnecessarily; all in dereliction of Official duty & injurious to the public service.

6th That the Coiner must be informed that it is a regulation of the Mint at Philad.a that at the beginning of a Year the dies of the preceding year are subjected to positive destruction by the Chief Coiner & Engraver yet when the Superintendent in March 1839 suggested to the Coiner that probably it would be best to send the dies of 1838 to Philad.a he treated the proposition with little regard saying we could keep them as safely as they could.

7th. The Conduct of the Melter and Refiner other than as detailed in Articles 4 and 5, to which I would now refer, will be found in my letters to the Director of the 14th 19th 25th and the 24th of March last and in the letters of the Aſsayer to me of the 13th (two of this date) & 14th of May and 4th inst.

8th. I must add to the foregoing the general want of Courtesy and propriety, in the Coiner and the Melter and Refiner, manifested generally in their intercourse with the Other Officers and the persons employed in this Branch Mint, by which the harmony of the institution is continually kept disturbed.

Very respectfully
Yr. Hum. Servt.
David Bradford
Supt.

David Bradford being duly sworn doth depose that the matters set forth in the foregoing Statement so far as relates to his own acts & doings are true & so far as relates to the acts & doings of any other person or persons, or so far as the same contains matters of opinion, he believes the same to be true
David Bradford.

Sworn & subscribed before me this
29 June 1839. Horatio Davis
Notary